

Committee on Birth Centenary of Bhagwan Mahavir

289. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA.

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the formation of a Committee to celebrate 2600 Birth Centenary of Bhagwan Mahavir is under consideration of Government;

(b) by when such Committee is likely to be formed;

(c) what are the plans of the Ministry to celebrate this occasion;

(d) whether any proposal from Jain Community and Jain Institutions has been received by the Ministry to celebrate the occasion; and

(e) whether Jain philosophy and traditions will be kept in view while framing the programmes to celebrate this event?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter regarding constitution of a National Committee is under consideration of the government.

(c) to (e) All the related aspects would be considered by the National Committee after it is set up.

Business tie-up between ITDC and APTTDC

290. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation has entered into a reciprocal business tie-up with the India Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details of business tie-up; and

(c) in what manner the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation is likely to be benefited with that business tie-up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Andhra Pradesh Travel & Tourism Development Corporation Limited (APTTDC), Hyderabad invited applications for appointment of authorised ticket booking agents at Chennai and Bangalore for sale of tickets in the tourist buses being operated by APTTDC. In response,

ITDC had offered and signed an agreement with APTTDC in June, 2000 to act as sole ticket booking agent in respect of the following package tours being operated by APTTDC:

- (1) Bangalore-Tirupati-Bangalore
- (2) Chennai-Tirupati-Chennai

The other salient features of the agreements are:

Acting as an authorised agent of APTTDC outside the state of Andhra Pradesh, ITDC apart from working as sole agent for the above specified package tours shall also book tickets for all APTTDC services under reciprocal business tie-up on 20% commission basis. In turn, APTTDC shall also act as the representative of ITDC in the state of Andhra Pradesh for selling ITDC services on 20% commission basis.

ITDC has guaranteed a minimum booking of 25 seats for above mentioned package tours for which 10% commission on transport cost will be payable by APTTDC. For booking of over and above 25 tickets, ITDC will be entitled for a commission of 50% on the transport cost.

The agreement is valid for a period of two years to begin with, with a proviso for renewal for another one year on mutually agreed terms.

Tourist inflow

291. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the arrival of foreign tourist expected till the end of December, 2000 (in the current year);
- (b) the target set and actual number of tourist arrived from foreign countries in 1997, 1998 and 1999;
- (c) whether any specific plan has been drawn up by Government to attract the increasing number of foreign tourists to different parts of the country in the coming years;
- (d) whether any State-wise/region-wise plan has been formulated for the purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) On the basis of the trend of present growth rate, the foreign tourist arrivals expected during the year 2000 are 2.6 million.